

Confidential

Oakland, O. Oct 5 1843.

Dear Mrs Chapman.

We have Frederick Douglass now with us in Clinton county lecturing most ably & successfully to large audiences - When he came he assigned no reasons to me which seemed of any force why he had left the Indiana conventions. A letter from a friend since informs me that a rupture took place at the annual meeting at Jonesboro in Indiana, which my informant gives on this wise "In the evening Bradburn had half finished a speech which in the morning he attempted to go on with. Douglass interrupted him. Bradburn said that according to parliamentary usage he had an undoubted right to go on. Douglass denied it and appealed to the chair. Daniel Worth who has been several times to the legislature was chairman of the meeting and decided in favor of Bradburn, whereupon Remond took the floor, called the chairman a jackass, made a hot speech and appealed to the meeting. The meeting sustained the chair, when Remond remarked they must be a set of monkeys out here in the West. After Bradburn finished they the meeting called for Monroe. He came forward and said for reasons satisfactory to himself he would not speak at that meeting. There was some other difficulty before the meeting was over between Douglass and Benjamin Stanton. Beard says if they do not do more hurt than good before they get out of the state he shall feel thankful. He thinks they are a disgrace to abolition. As near as I can find out Remond and Douglass chose to be the lions of the party and are unwilling to be directed by others or restrained by common parliamentary usage". So much for my correspondent Augustus W. W. one of the best and most sacrificing of men but who not being present had his information from others. I was pained to observe a want of harmony of feeling among our Eastern friends who were with us. I have some reasons though perhaps not conclusive ones for supposing that the arrival of Remond and Douglass

at Oakland after our anniversary was concluded
happened through design, not from necessity.
My principal object in writing to you is to suggest that
the plan of calling conventions at which shall be
collected several of the prominent speakers in the
antislavery ranks is a bad one. These men tal-
ented and glorious specimens of "fallen" humanity as
they are, still are but unregenerate men.
The antislavery reform is but partial reform
after all. It brings into prominent activity a
part only of the higher sentiments and intellectual
powers of our nature. The whole man is not devel-
oped. The circumstances which continually surround
our speakers are calculated to foster self-esteem
- to beget pride where humility is needed. When
these are brought together before an audience each
cannot be the lion he is accustomed to be when
laboring alone and as a consequence these jealous-
ies and ugly ruptures are occasionally occurring
while the feelings which prompt them are evident
to the careful observer continually, although they may
not be manifested to the crowd.

The American Society needs a general agent at
this time of peculiar business powers. It is injustice
to brother Collins and injustice to the antislavery cause
to continue him in that position. There ought to be
a man, a woman in that station who while the present
instrumentalities employed were arranged to the best
advantage should be continually on the alert to bring
into activity new agents as fast as those of the
right stamp can be procured and allow those now en-
gaged to be gradually withdrawn. The ardent warrior against
the slave system whilst he battles at the foe with death dealing
blows receives such wounds in return as entitle him to the
privilege of occasional retirement for the purpose of healing

them. If we had perfect men to start upon this partial
reform they would lose their wholeness before they had
been long in the field. I mention Ably Kelly as Gen Agent to one
of our ^{Eastern} friends here but he seemed to have something of a
horror of the Gynocracy which would be constituted by having
Miss Kelly in the field and Mrs Chapman in the council. The
true man would never have thought of that. Such an one would en-
quire only, what instrumentalities will prove most effective.
I love the anti-slavery cause, partial as I have represented
it to be in its aims at reform because it has led me
I hope to look beyond it to something better and more pure
as profitable a pathway to others. Believing that the
information which this conveys might be ~~spread~~
of use, and that the suggestions which as-
company are worth considering, I have felt
called upon to write it. You will pardon
me for adding further that I have had evidence
that the relations which exist ~~between~~ yourself
as active member of the Massachusetts Board
and the agents in the field are such as to require
great delicacy in any attempt to adjust differences which
may occur among them and possibly also in giving shape to their
public labors as agents.

With great respect & good wishes for your health, happiness,
and continuance in usefulness

I am your friend W Brooke

A. Brooke
Confidential
1843
Oakland O
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Mass.

